



Issue One -- April 2017



## Portsmouth/Scioto County Named Top 10 Micropolitan

The greater Portsmouth micropolitan area, which includes all of Scioto County, has been named the tenth best micropolitan in the United States for economic development in *Site Selection Magazine's* 2016 Governor's Cup rankings. The announcement, which was made official in early March, caps off a banner year for Scioto County and for the economic development efforts of the Southern Ohio Port Authority (SOPA) which assisted in the creation of 170 new jobs, the retention of 466 existing jobs and the investment of \$45,536,770 in new capital expenditures.

"The Governor's Cup is the most important ranking in the economic development field," explained SOPA Executive Director Jason Kester.

"This award would not be possible without the support of the Scioto County Commissioners, the City of Portsmouth, the Village of New Boston, and all of our corporate partners. We had nine major projects in 2016, all of which received some form

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## Scioto Foundation Invites You to Give a Dollar a Day -- Scioto 365 Will Give Donors a Voice --

The Scioto Foundation is launching a new, dynamic community leadership initiative, Scioto 365, designed to encourage widespread participation in community and economic development for the improvement of the Portsmouth area.

“At the heart of Scioto 365 is impact grant-making,” said SF Executive Director Kim Cutlip. “With support from the staff of the Scioto Foundation, community leaders will develop grant parameters, give donations and determine which nonprofit grants to award.



Scioto 365 will give donors a voice they might not typically have, the power to leverage funds to make a collective impact upon our community.”

“To be involved in Scioto 365, donors will give \$365 – a dollar a day each year – to make our community better,” Cutlip explained. “Monies

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## Celebrate Portsmouth a Success for Main Street Portsmouth

Main Street Portsmouth’s sole fundraising event, Celebrate Portsmouth, was held in March with a plethora of support from small businesses and corporations, local community members, and local leaders.

The event was considered a success by the board and administration, having more guests in attendance than the 2016 event as well as a better turnout in donations earmarked for downtown growth in 2017.

The event was sponsored by SOMC, which provided many staff to help prepare the event and decorate, as well as many

of the food items, event equipment, and more.

Table sponsors included Shawnee State University, the City of Portsmouth, Portsmouth Daily Times, Glockner, Hunter Williams Insurance, Copies Galore, US Bank, American Savings Bank, Gracie Plum Financial, Century 21, and OSCO.

Main Street President Kirk Donges spoke about downtown growth and developments, stating that he had not seen as much of this as he has in recent years. He attributes this to the City of Portsmouth and dedicated property owners.

Executive Director Joseph Pratt spoke about MSP statistics for 2016, stating that the organization has worked with the city and local property owners to the effect of over \$70,000 in developments on local property. The organization has also hosted 42 events, invested over \$25,000 in downtown design, welcomed over 5,000 people at events, donated over \$100,000 in volunteer hours, and more.

The board is currently looking at the growth of Celebrate Portsmouth and preparing for another year of events and continued downtown development.

## Fetters Honored as Farmer of the Year

The Portsmouth Area Chamber of Commerce recently held its annual Business/Farmers Banquet at the Scioto County Welcome Center. This event was started in 1957 to bring the business community together with the agricultural community to honor the Farmer of the Year. This year's honor went to John Fetters of Minford.

Although he was raised in the city, Fetters knew he wanted to be a farmer from the time he started high school. Since his mother insisted he get a college education, he majored in agriculture at Ohio State University.

Fetters has been involved in a variety of farming activities throughout his life and served in leadership roles in the Agriculture Conservation and Stabilization Service, now known as the Farm Service Agency. He has dedicated over 30 years to serving farmers and community businesses associated with farming.

Although he has retired from farming because of health reasons, his heart will always be with those who work to cultivate and conserve our great lands.



*Farmer of the Year John Fetters (above, center) is pictured with his wife Sue (right) and Jason Kester, Executive Director of the Southern Ohio Port Authority. Below, he is recognized by Juli Stephens, Field Representative for Congressman Bill Johnson, OH-6.*



## Top 10 Micropolitan

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of assistance from JobsOhio and the Appalachian Partnership for Economic Growth, the Southern Ohio Agricultural and Community Development Fund, American Electric Power, or Fluor-BWXT. Without their support and the commitment to our community by our local businesses we would not appear in these rankings. We're extremely proud of our community's accomplishments."

Scioto County was also named as the 18th best county for job creation in 2015/2016 by the Dayton Business Journal. Pike County was ranked 23rd.

"It's great to see our hard work finally paying off and being recognized," Said Adam Phillips, Project Manager for the Southern Ohio Port Authority. "This is a proud moment for our organization and for Scioto County."

Scioto County and SOPA hope to add to this tremendous momentum in 2017. There are already several high-profile projects in the pipeline for our community this year, and new inquiries in to the area from outside investors are at historic highs. If success breeds success, then 2017 should be another fine year for our county.



Connex is a non-profit group dedicated to the development of activity routes throughout Portsmouth and the surrounding community. The group's mission is to inspire activities of play, exercise, and social connections to promote health and wellness. Check out some upcoming local events to get you moving!

### **Shawnee State University Spring Bear Run**

Wednesday, April 19, 2017 -- 6 p.m. start

Register [here](#) by 6 p.m. on Friday, April 14, 2017

### **SOMC's Amazing Race**

Saturday, April 22, 2017

<http://www.somc.org/amazingrace/>

### **Riverfront Racewalk**

Sunday, April 30, 2017 at 10 a.m.

Scioto County Welcome Center

Register [here](#) by 7 a.m. on Friday, April 28.

This Race is the USATF-OH Association Championship 20K.

### **Bill's Indoor Group Cycling**

Every Thursday at 5:45 p.m. at the Portsmouth Life Center  
Join Bill Kirby on Thursday evenings for a good bicycle workout. This is primarily limited to Life Center Members, but everyone is allowed two free passes per year if you are interested.

### **Call for Committee to help with the "Dam Footer Ride" Sunday, May 7, 2017**

Dawn Scott and Wendi Waugh have done an excellent job developing a fun event for cyclists of all ability levels. The ride will take place at the Greenup Dam, on Sunday May 7. Contact Dawn Scott at (740) 353-4161.

### **Call For Committee to help with 2017 "Connex Moves" Event -- Tuesday, April 4, at 6 p.m.**

Bill Kirby, Barb Bradbury, Gina Chabot, Craig Opperman, and Reece Brown will meet again to discuss the Portsmouth Cultural affairs Grant and Connex Moves event. Please come out and join the group if you want to help out with the planning. If you can't make it, but you would be interested in being on that committee, please contact Reece Brown at [rbrown@standenergy.com](mailto:rbrown@standenergy.com).

See page 5 for a  
Community Wellness event  
schedule from the SOMC  
Life Center and Connex.

### **Dance and Benefit SOMC Hospice**

The SOMC LIFE Center will host a dance workout event to benefit SOMC Hospice from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 8 at the Portsmouth LIFE Center.

The event will combine Hip Hop Heat, Zumba® Fitness, and other fun dance formats!

The cost is \$10 per person, and both members and non-members are welcome to participate. All Non- LIFE Center members under the age of 18 must be signed in by a parent or legal guardian. All proceeds will benefit the SOMC Transcending Lives campaign.

There will also be raffles and a 50/50 drawing. The cost will be: \$1 per ticket or \$5 for six tickets.

For more information, please call the LIFE Center at 740-356-7650.

### **Did we miss an activity, or event that would compliment Connex's mission?**

- Submit the event to [rbrown@standenergy.com](mailto:rbrown@standenergy.com).
- Include a brief paragraph, date/times, and a contact person.



## FREE COMMUNITY WELLNESS

# Event Schedule

### Portsmouth Connex Run/Walk Group

**Mondays at 5:15pm**  
(starting April 24th-June 26th)  
Meet at Portsmouth Brewing Company

### Betty's Rookie Ride

**Tuesdays at 5:30pm**  
(starting April 4)  
Meet at Coffee at the Lofts  
(4th Street Parking lot)

### Walking with Jill

**Wednesdays at 6:00pm**  
(starting April 12th)  
Meet on front steps of  
Portsmouth LIFE Center

### Wednesday Wal-Mart Walkers

**Wednesdays at 7:00pm**  
Meet at stop sign

### Jenn's Rookie Ride

**Thursdays at 4:45pm**  
(starting April 13)  
Meet at Scioto County Courthouse

### Biking with Bill

**Thursdays at 5:30pm**  
(starting April 6th)  
Meet at Covered Bridge in Otway

## Cool & Connected Workshop Held to Plan Area Broadband Development



*Representatives of the Cool and Connected delegation received a tour of the City of Portsmouth on February 6. They are pictured above with Jason Kester and Adam Phillips of SOPA and Derek Allen, Portsmouth City Manager.*

The City of Portsmouth hosted the Cool and Connected Workshop for broadband planning at Shawnee State University on February 6-7, 2017. This event was a result of Portsmouth's participation as one of ten Cool and Connected pilot communities across the Appalachian Region. The goal of the workshop was to provide the community with technical expertise to assist in the creation of an action plan to leverage broadband infrastructure in the implementation of the area's development efforts.

Portsmouth is one of the first communities to complete its workshop. The program is currently being administered by Smart Growth America with the assistance of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Department of Agriculture and the Appalachian Regional Commission. Representatives from these agencies co-hosted the workshop with local leadership from the Southern Ohio Port Authority, the City of Portsmouth, and Shawnee State University.

"Communities who are better prepared to meet the demand for broadband services are going to be better positioned to attract a quality workforce and to foster and attract new and innovative technology-based companies. Both are essential in a 21st Century economy," said Adam Phillips, Project Manager at the Southern Ohio Port Authority.

An action plan for deploying broadband in support of community development in the downtown and riverfront area is in the process of being completed and will be available to view online at [next.sohpa.org](http://next.sohpa.org).

## Alexandria Point Trail Extension Project and City of Portsmouth Bicycle Path

In 2015 and 2016, the City of Portsmouth competed in the America's Best Communities competition. This rural development competition, sponsored by Frontier Communications, challenged small towns across the country to develop community revitalization plans that would propel each community forward. Based on its plan, which focused on riverfront access and downtown development, the City of Portsmouth was named one of the top 15 semi-finalists in this competition, leveraging more than \$75,000 in grant funding in the planning process.

Since Portsmouth exited the competition last May, various organization leaders throughout the community have been meeting on a semi-monthly basis to discuss community projects and next steps in implementing key portions of the plan. One of the first projects identified in the process has been the construction of an inclined paved pedestrian access trail at Alexandria Point that would connect the riverfront to Second Street and complete a 5-K riverfront recreation loop currently being developed by the City of Portsmouth.

"Once completed, this project will form the centerpiece of the City of Portsmouth's river-

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## Scioto 365

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are then pooled and at the end of the fundraising period, the Scioto Foundation will make 50 percent of all monies earned available for targeted grant awards. The remaining 50 percent will be placed into an endowment fund to grow for future awards.”

The new initiative will benefit donors since pooled dollars will leverage greater impact together than alone, according to Cutlip. Scioto 365 members can be as active as they like. Some members will offer only financial support, others will choose to take a leadership role and most will help to determine annual grant awards.

“Scioto 365 will be managed through a donor-driven Leadership Committee that will work in tandem with the Foundation’s staff. This committee will help the Scioto Foundation to select annual case points for targeted grant funding to create

and/or sustain vibrant, healthy and safe neighborhoods,” said Cutlip. “In the first year, the leadership team will be comprised of Scioto Foundation staff, board and committee members.

“The theme of 2017 is creating work and life balance. Some examples of grants that will be accepted include updating or improving parks and recreational areas, bike paths, community signage and lighting, and overall community appearance,” Cutlip announced.

“Each year Scioto 365 will ‘formally launch’ during our annual meeting in the spring,” continued Cutlip. “At this event we envision sharing our grant RFP or request for proposals for the coming year. Scioto 365 donors will receive a mailed invitation to the annual meeting. Grant applications will be made available on May 1. In September, all Scioto 365

donors will receive a ballot via email to vote for their favored proposal. In addition, donors will be invited to attend the Scioto 365 Grant Award Reception to be held in November in conjunction with the annual Scioto Gives Reception in November.”

To become a Scioto 365 donor, annual contributions of \$365 may be made by credit cards or checks made payable to the Scioto Foundation with Scioto 365 in the memo. Checks should be mailed to the Foundation address at P.O. Box 911, Portsmouth, Ohio 45662. Donors can also make arrangements to donate gifts through installments.

Join the Scioto 365 movement by connecting with other donors to select grants that positively affect our community. Help us create and sustained vibrant, healthy and safe neighborhoods.

## Alexandria Point

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front revitalization efforts. The Alexandria Point trail extension is the linchpin project in facilitating this effort,” said Adam Phillips, Project Manager at the Southern Ohio Port Authority.

Poggemeyer Design Group is currently designing the city’s proposed bicycle/multiuse path along Front Street. The firm has also been contracted to complete a geotechnical soil

analysis, topographical survey, design concepts and cost estimates for the construction of the Alexandria Point trail extension. This project is being paid for by the Southern Ohio Port Authority with the assistance of the Scioto Foundation which contributed \$5,000 of the \$20,000 total project cost.

The riverfront recreation trail will open up opportunities

for future development projects along the riverfront, including the installation of interactive signage, information kiosks and potentially the development of Wi-Fi hotspots that will enhance recreational use of the riverfront.

*Note: To see a diagram of the proposed Alexandria Point Trail Extension, click [here](#) and visit page 41.*



*Pictured at left are the members of the Leadership Portsmouth Class of 2007 and organizers of the 15-year reunion.*

## Leadership Portsmouth Plans 25-year Reunion

Leadership Portsmouth is a community educational program established in 1990 to help build and enhance the community of Portsmouth and surrounding areas by developing the leadership skills of our region's present and future leaders. Portsmouth Area Chamber of Commerce manages the program which has graduated over 400 individuals.

The group is planning a 25-year reunion in June and is calling on all alumni to participate. If you are a Leadership Portsmouth graduate, please contact the Chamber of Commerce office at 740-353-7647 to update your contact information. You can also email Lisa Carver at [Lcarver@portsmouth.org](mailto:Lcarver@portsmouth.org). Help spread the word!

## Building Improvement Grants, a Foundation of Downtown Development

One of Main Street's most rewarding programs is the Building Improvement Grant, which is accomplished through a partnership with the City of Portsmouth.

This program is entering its eighth cycle, and its grants have accomplished well over half a million in downtown property development.

Through a process designed by Main Street Portsmouth, Heritage Ohio, and the City of Portsmouth, property owners develop plans of action for property upkeep by working with contractors and architects

to plan development that is approved through the Design and Review Board, formulate detailed cost analyses, and more as they work through the complicated paperwork of upkeep on their historic properties.

In many cases, the legwork of getting the grants ready is enough to make those who do not receive funding continue with their plans, as seen in 2016 with local business owners Becky Marasek and Gary Kenyan.

2016 was a record year for applications with 18 individual

projects submitted. Sixteen were considered for grants, and five were awarded.

Those who received grants included: Ghosts in the Attic, \$8,350 to replace the roof; Brain Freeze of Portsmouth, \$2,243 to replace large antique doors; Portsmouth Cement and Lime, \$10,203 to assist in a several exterior projects including painting, roofing, and cupola; Journey Within, \$5,250 for façade security and window replacement; and Sandy Wilburn's Fifth Street property, for point tucking and paint.

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## Shawnee State/TechGROWTH Conduct Commercialization Skills Course

On Friday, April 14, Shawnee State University will host a Commercialization Skills Course. This will be held in the Clark Memorial Library's Flohr Lecture Hall, Room 205, from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.



TECHGROWTH *ohio*

Lee Groeschl, Executive-in-Residence for TechGROWTH Ohio will conduct the course which will cover:

- Understanding Intellectual Property and IP Basics
- Business Model Canvas and Lean Launch Approach
- Southeastern Ohio Entrepreneurial Resources
- Venture Financing Overview
- Entrepreneurial Success Stories in Southeast Ohio

This course is free and open to the general public, but seating is limited. Please register [here](#) by Friday, April 7. If questions, call Angie Dudit at 740-351-3322, or email [adudit@shawnee.edu](mailto:adudit@shawnee.edu).

Click [here](#) for Shawnee State University's Calendar of Events.

## SSU Hosts Entrepreneurship Roundtable

On March 13, Shawnee State University (SSU) hosted the PORTSfuture Entrepreneurship Roundtable. Greg Merrill, CEO of Yost Labs, served as moderator. The panel also consisted of Dale King and Renee Wallace of Doc Spartan, and Alex Russell, a senior computer engineering technology major at SSU who helped to start LiTS, an Information Technology services company.

Merrill had several interesting stories to tell about his 25 years as an entrepreneurial leader, including how he started three fast growth technology-based companies. King and Wallace told about their experience appearing on ABC's *Shark Tank* and how it impacted their veteran-owned business, and Russell talked about managing a 40-plus hour work week for LiTS while finishing his college degree.

Several local service providers also attended and spoke. In addition to SSU, sponsors included Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs, the Joint Economic Development Initiative of Southern Ohio, TechGROWTH Ohio, The Ohio State University South Centers, the Jackson County Economic Development Board, and the Ohio Valley Regional Development Commission. The PORTSfuture project is funded by a grant from the U.S Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management Portsmouth/Paducah Project Office.

See pictures from the event [here](#).

## Building Improvement Grants

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"In many of these cases, property owners may not be able to afford the updates needed to their property without the grants from Main Street and the City of Portsmouth," President Kirk Donges said. "It is overwhelming to see the support we get for this program and the development it causes, thanks to this partnership."

Downtown grants in 2016 totaled \$70,087.90. Other projects by applicants were also completed in downtown development.

"This program has assisted in scores of property development, everything from roofing and important structural support to awnings and paint," Executive Director Joseph Pratt said. "The pride that business owners have for the historical properties in downtown is admirable. In many cases, there is a lot of work to be done. We see business owners constantly striving to pour money into these properties to keep them standing for years to come. We are happy to assist in this when we can, thanks to the City of Portsmouth."

Grant applications for 2017 are currently being accepted. More details are available by calling 740-464-0203 or emailing [program.msp@gmail.com](mailto:program.msp@gmail.com). The committee is also open to new recruits.

## Contacts

### Southern Ohio Port Authority

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### Scioto Foundation

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### Main Street Portsmouth

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Website: [www.msportio.org](http://www.msportio.org)

### Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce

Phone: (740) 353-7647

Email: [lcarver@portsmouth.org](mailto:lcarver@portsmouth.org)

Website: <http://portsmouth.org>

### Portsmouth Connex

Email: [rbrown@standenergy.com](mailto:rbrown@standenergy.com)

Website: [connexmoves.org](http://connexmoves.org)

### Shawnee State University Office of Workforce Develop- ment & Entrepreneurship

Phone: (740) 351-3322

Email: [aduduit@shawnee.edu](mailto:aduduit@shawnee.edu)

Website: <http://bit.ly/ssuworkforce>

Facebook: <http://bit.ly/ssuinovatefb>

Twitter: <http://bit.ly/ssuinovate>

## News from the Scioto County Visitors Bureau

### Portsmouth Day at the Cincinnati Reds

Portsmouth Day is being held at the Great American Ballpark on Sunday, April 23. The Cincinnati Reds will be facing off against the reigning World Series Champions Chicago Cubs. Tickets are available for \$20 each at <http://m.mlb.com/reds/tickets/specials/portsmouth>. Wendi Waugh of Southern Ohio Medical Center will be throwing out the first pitch. The national anthem will be sung by Bobby Blanton of Wheelersburg.

### Lucasville Trade Days

Lucasville Trade Days will be held April 21, 22, and 23 at the Scioto County Fairgrounds in Lucasville. General admission is \$3 and is open to the public. Parking is free on fairground lots. For more information, visit [www.lucasvilletradedays.com](http://www.lucasvilletradedays.com).

### Tour of the Scioto River Valley (TOSRV)

The 56th Annual Tour of the Scioto River Valley is being held May 20 and 21. TOSRV is considered the longest running and most significant bicycle event in North American history. This two-day, 105 mile-per-day, Columbus-to-Portsmouth and return to Columbus event has been a staple in the Portsmouth community since 1961. For more information visit the website <http://tosrv56.org/> or contact the Scioto County Visitors Bureau at 740-353-1116.

## SSU President's Gala April 29

The 2017 President's Gala will be held on Saturday, April 29, on the Alumni Green at Shawnee State University. The event will be an outdoor barbeque, and tickets are \$125 per person (\$100 for alumni, faculty and staff).

Table sponsor reservations are available for \$850, and reservations for the President's table are \$200 per person.

A portion of the price of each ticket may be tax deductible. Tickets may be purchased online at:

[www.shawnee.edu/gala](http://www.shawnee.edu/gala)